

From: [<Diane.Eastabrook@aljazeera.net>](mailto:Diane.Eastabrook@aljazeera.net)  
To: [Mylott](#)  
[Richard](#)  
CC:  
Date: 9/2/2014 2:20:37 PM  
Subject: Re: brine spills

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Great. Thanks very much.

Diane Eastabrook  
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**From:** <Mylott>, Richard <[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov](mailto:Mylott.Richard@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 2, 2014 4:12 PM  
**To:** Diane Eastabrook <[diane.eastabrook@aljazeera.net](mailto:diane.eastabrook@aljazeera.net)>  
**Subject:** RE: brine spills

Yes, my understanding is that part of the remedy included flushing a series of beaver ponds that captured a large portion of the spill volume with fresh water. Precipitation also helps dilute salt impacts over time. I also understand there were impacts to vegetation in the drainage. Given the volume of the spill, our assessment is that it is likely that some brine water reached the bay, however, the Tribe would be the best source for information on that, including any sampling data on dissolved solid concentrations. It is worth noting that a large body of water would significantly dilute any brine over area and time.

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**From:** Diane Eastabrook [<mailto:Diane.Eastabrook@aljazeera.net>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 02, 2014 3:03 PM

**To:** Mylott, Richard

**Subject:** Re: brine spills

Understood. You mentioned EPA did an initial assessment. Could the brine leach into the water if it isn't cleaned up in a timely fashion?

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**From:** <Mylott>, Richard <[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov](mailto:Mylott.Richard@epa.gov)>

**Date:** Tuesday, September 2, 2014 3:51 PM

**To:** Diane Eastabrook <[diane.eastabrook@aljazeera.net](mailto:diane.eastabrook@aljazeera.net)>

**Subject:** RE: brine spills

Hi Diane, thanks for your email. EPA sent an emergency response coordinator from its Denver office to evaluate the July brine spill. EPA's primary role under our authorities is to ensure appropriate response actions are taken when oil spills threaten surface waters or when releases of contaminants pose an immediate and substantial threat to human health. In this case, our primary concerns were 1.) assessing potential impacts associated with oil and 2.) ensuring the safety of drinking water. Following the spill, no oil was observed in the drainage adjacent to the spill location or downgradient in a bay connected to Lake Sakakawea. Water samples taken near drinking water intakes showed no indication of impacts from hydrocarbons or brine. As such, our roles were limited to an initial assessment of the site. The Tribe served as the lead authority for sampling and other assessment and cleanup actions. I understand there are long-term cleanup and restoration activities underway in the drainage affected by the spill. The Tribe would be the best source for information on the status of these activities.

The State of North Dakota received notification of another brine spill on August 22. Information we received indicated that the spill did not pose a threat to surface waters.

Rich Mylott  
303-312-6654

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**From:** Diane Eastabrook [<mailto:Diane.Eastabrook@aljazeera.net>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 02, 2014 2:22 PM

**To:** Mylott, Richard

**Subject:** brine spills

Hi Mr. Mylott,

Thanks for returning my calls. I understand there have been a couple of brine spills over the past two months on or near the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in western ND. The first was in early July. The second one was apparently discovered a week or two ago.

My questions are: Is the EPA still investigating both spills? Does your agency do water testing to see if these spills get into groundwater or surface water? If a spill is on a reservation, does the EPA have jurisdiction there?

Thanks very much.

Regards,

Diane Eastabrook

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